

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1 to 24 cancelled

25. (previously amended) A method for the production of brushes, the brushes consisting essentially of at least two different types of bristles collected into at least one combined bristle group having a defined cross section and mounted to a bristle support, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) combining first bristles of a first bristle type into a first partial group;
- b) combining second bristles of a second bristle type into a second partial group;
- c) shaping said first partial group in a surrounding guide of a shaping device to obtain a first cross section corresponding to a first partial cross section of said first partial group in the combined bristle group;
- d) shaping said second partial group in said surrounding guide of said shaping device to obtain a second cross section corresponding to a second partial cross section of said second partial group in the combined bristle group;
- e) converging said shaped first and second partial groups while maintaining said first and said second partial cross sections to form a cross section of the combined bristle group; and
- f) mounting the combined bristle group to the bristle support.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said first partial group comprises a first number of bristles which differs from a second number of bristles in said second partial group.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising transferring, between steps e) and f), the combined bristle group to a holding means.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein steps c) and d) comprise the steps of compressing each of said first and second partial groups.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising simultaneously forming all bristle groups of a brush bristle stock in said shaping device.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising transferring said all bristle groups of said brush bristle stock to a holding means, accommodating said all bristle groups.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising sequentially forming all bristle groups of a brush bristle stock in said shaping device and transferring said all bristle groups to a holding means, accommodating said all bristle groups.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said first partial group has a first length in said combined bristle group which differs from a second length of said second partial group in said

combined bristle group, and further comprising transferring said combined bristle group to a holding means and cutting said combined bristle group flat at a location between said shaping device and said holding means.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said combined bristle group is clamped in said holding means.
34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein useful ends of bristles in said combined bristle group are clamped in said holding means and are subsequently one of mechanically treated and rounded.
35. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein bristles in said holding means are displaced axially with respect to one another in an unclamped state to bring useful ends thereof into differing envelope surfaces.
36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein bristles of at least one of said first and said second partial group are displaced axially with respect to one another to bring useful ends of said bristles into differing envelope surfaces.
37. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein ends of bristles to be fastened, which are opposite useful ends of said bristles, are prepared in said holding means for mounting to the bristle support.

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38. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said first and said second partial groups are maintained at close separation when joined to form said combined bristle group.
39. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said first and said second partial group are tightly packed and combined to form said combined bristle group.
40. (currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein bristles of each of said first and said second partial groups are made from endless monofilaments by accommodating bristles of a first type as first cords of first endless monofilament on a first spool and by accommodating bristles of a second type as second cords of second endless monofilaments ~~on a second~~ on a second spool and by removing said first and said second cords from said first and said second spools and inserting said first and said second cords into said guide to form said first partial group from said first cords and said second partial group from said second cords, wherein bristles of all partial groups forming a combined bristle group are simultaneously supplied to said guide.
41. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein each of said first and said second partial groups is made from short-cut bristles of appropriate length.
42. (currently amended) A device for carrying out the method of claim 25, the device comprising:

a first spool for storing first monofilament ~~cords~~ cords of

a first bristle type;
a second spool for storing second monofilament cords of a second bristle type;
at least one downstream drawing device having one guiding channel for each of said first and said second monofilament cords;
a shaping device disposed downstream of said drawing device, said shaping device having channels corresponding to a number of guiding channels in said drawing device, said shaping channels having openings facing said drawing device which are aligned with said guiding channels and which have cross-sections changing into a respective partial cross-section of a respective partial group towards an opposing opening, while converging into an envelope cross-section corresponding to a cross-section of said combined bristle group, wherein said first and second cords can be removed from said first and second spools and pushed through said shaping device via linear motion of said drawing device.

43. (previously presented) The device of claim 42, further comprising a moveable holding means for at least one combined bristle group, said holding means disposed downstream of said shaping device and having holding channels whose shape and arrangement correspond to facing shaping channels of said shaping device, wherein partial groups formed in said shaping device and combined into said combined bristle group can be transferred to said holding means, and further comprising a cutting device disposed between said shaping device and said holding means for cutting said combined bristle group

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in said holding means to a desired length, wherein said holding means, with said combined bristle group, can be transported for mounting said combined bristle group to the bristle support.

44. (previously presented) The device of claim 42, wherein said shaping channels of said shaping device have a cross-sectional area which decreases in a direction of cross-sectional variation.
45. (currently amended) The device of ~~claim 42~~ claim 43, wherein at least two separately moveable drawing devices are disposed, one behind the other, and act on said first and said second cords forming said first and said second partial groups to insert said first and said second partial groups into said holding means.
46. (previously presented) The device of claim 43, wherein said drawing device and said holding means each comprise parallel layered plates at least one of which can be moved as a clamping plate transverse to said guiding and said holding channels to clamp said first and said second partial groups.
47. (previously presented) The device of claim 43, wherein said holding means, with a clamped said combined bristle group, can be moved past devices for at least one of processing and treatment of at least one of useful ends and fastening ends of bristles in said combined bristle group.
48. (previously presented) The device of claim 46, wherein bristles of at least one of said combined bristle group, said first partial group and

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said second partial group can be displaced axially relative to one another when said clamping plate is released.